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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
10

11 *,) CASE NO. CV*-AHM (*x)
12 Plaintiffs,)
13 v.) INITIAL ORDER FOLLOWING
14 *,) FILING OF COMPLAINT ASSIGNED
15 Defendant.) TO JUDGE MATZ
16)
17)
_____)

18 COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF SHALL SERVE THIS ORDER ON ALL
19 DEFENDANTS AND/OR THEIR COUNSEL ALONG WITH THE SUMMONS
20 AND COMPLAINT, OR IF THAT IS NOT PRACTICABLE AS SOON AS
21 POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. IF THIS CASE WAS ASSIGNED TO THIS
22 COURT AFTER BEING REMOVED FROM STATE COURT, THE
23 DEFENDANT WHO REMOVED THE CASE SHALL SERVE THIS ORDER
24 ON ALL OTHER PARTIES.

25 This case has been assigned to the calendar of Judge A. Howard Matz.
26 Judge Matz is intent on assuring that, as called for in Fed.R.Civ. P. 1, this case
27 will proceed so as “to secure [a] just, speedy and inexpensive determination . . .”
28 The parties are hereby informed of how they are expected to proceed.

1 **A. THE COURT'S ORDERS**

2 Copies of Judge Matz's orders that may have specific application to this
3 case are available on the Central District of California website. See ¶ J. Those
4 orders include the following (this is not necessarily a complete list):

- 5 (1) Order Setting Rule 26(f) Scheduling Conference
6 (2) Scheduling and Case Management Order
7 (3) Order re Protective Orders and Treatment of Confidential
8 Information
9 (4) Orders (separate) re Civil Jury Trials and Court Trials
10 (5) Order re Settlement Conference
11 (6) Order re RICO Case Statement

12 **B. SERVICE OF PLEADINGS**

13 Although Fed.R.Civ.P. 4(m) does not require the summons and complaint
14 to be served for as much as 120 days, the Court expects that they will be served
15 much sooner than that, and will require plaintiff to show cause before then if it
16 appears that there is undue delay.

17 **C. ASSIGNMENT TO A MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

18 Under 28 U.S.C. § 636, the parties may consent to have a Magistrate Judge
19 preside over all proceedings, including trial. The Magistrate Judges who accept
20 those designations are identified on the Central District's website, which also
21 contains the consent form. See ¶ J.

22 **D. APPLICATIONS AND STIPULATIONS FOR EXTENSIONS**
23 **OF TIME**

- 24 **A. Applications or Stipulations to Extend the Time to File any**
25 **Required Document or to Continue any Pretrial or Trial**
26 **Date.**

1 No stipulations extending scheduling requirements or modifying applicable
2 rules are effective until and unless the Court approves them. Both applications
3 and stipulations must set forth:

- 4 1. the existing due date or hearing date;
- 5 2. specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting the
6 extension. In this regard, a statement that an extension “will promote settlement”
7 is insufficient. The requesting party or parties must indicate the status of ongoing
8 negotiations: have written proposals been exchanged? Is counsel in the process of
9 reviewing a draft settlement agreement? Has a mediator been selected?
- 10 3. whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and whether
11 these were granted or denied by the Court.

12 **E. TRO’S AND INJUNCTIONS**

13 Parties seeking emergency or provisional relief shall comply with
14 F.R.Civ.P. 65 and Local Rule 65. The Court will not rule on any application for
15 such relief for at least 24 hours after the party subject to the requested order has
16 been served; such party may file opposing or responding papers in the interim.
17 The parties shall lodge a courtesy copy, conformed to reflect that it has been filed,
18 of all papers relating to TROs and injunctions. The courtesy copy shall be placed
19 in the drop box in the entrance way to chambers, to the left of Courtroom 14. All
20 such papers shall be filed “loose” - - *i.e.*, not inside envelopes.

21 **F. CASES REMOVED FROM STATE COURT**

22 All documents filed in state court, including documents appended to the
23 complaint, answers and motions, must be refiled in this Court as a supplement to
24 the Notice of Renewal, if not already included. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1447(a)(b). If
25 the defendant has not yet answered or moved, the answer or responsive pleading
26 filed in this Court must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the
27 Local Rules of the Central District. If before the case was removed a motion was
28 pending in state court, it must be re-noticed in accordance with Local Rule 7.

1 **G. STATUS OF FICTITIOUSLY NAMED DEFENDANTS**

2 This Court intends to adhere to the following procedures where a matter is
3 removed to this Court on diversity grounds with fictitiously named defendants
4 referred to in the complaint. (*See* 28 U.S.C. ¶¶ 1441(a) and 1447.)

5 1. Plaintiff is normally expected to ascertain the identity of and serve
6 any fictitiously named defendants within 120 days of the removal of the action to
7 this Court.

8 2. If plaintiff believes (by reason of the necessity for discovery or
9 otherwise) that fictitiously named defendants cannot be fully identified within the
10 120-day period, an *ex parte* application requesting permission to extend that
11 period to effectuate service may be filed with this Court. Such application shall
12 state the reasons therefor, and may be granted upon a showing of good cause.
13 The *ex parte* application shall be served upon all appearing parties, and shall state
14 that appearing parties may comment within seven (7) days of the filing of the *ex*
15 *parte* application.

16 3. If plaintiff desires to substitute a named defendant for one of the
17 fictitiously named parties, plaintiff first shall seek to obtain consent from counsel
18 for the previously-identified defendants (and counsel for the fictitiously named
19 party, if that party has separate counsel). If consent is withheld or denied,
20 plaintiff may apply *ex parte* requesting such amendment, with notice to all
21 appearing parties. Each party shall have seven calendar days to respond. The *ex*
22 *parte* application and any response should comment not only on the substitution
23 of the named party for a fictitiously named defendant, but on the question of
24 whether the matter should thereafter be remanded to the Superior Court if
25 diversity of citizenship is destroyed by the addition of the new substituted party.
26 *See* U.S.C. § 1447(c)(d).

1 **H. BANKRUPTCY APPEALS**

2 Counsel shall comply with the ORDER RE PROCEDURE TO BE
3 FOLLOWED IN APPEAL FROM BANKRUPTCY COURT issued at the time
4 the appeal is filed in the District Court. The matter is considered submitted upon
5 the filing of the appellant’s reply brief. No oral argument is held unless otherwise
6 ordered by this Court.

7 **I. MOTIONS UNDER FED.R.CIV.P. 12**

8 Many motions to dismiss or to strike could be avoided if the parties confer
9 in good faith (as they are required to do under L.R. 7-3), especially for perceived
10 defects in a complaint, answer or counterclaim which could be corrected by
11 amendment. *See Chang v. Chen*, 80 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir. 1996) (where a
12 motion to dismiss is granted, a district court should provide leave to amend unless
13 it is clear that the complaint could not be saved by *any* amendment). Moreover, a
14 party has the right to amend his complaint “once as a matter of course at any time
15 before a responsive pleading is served.” Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a). A 12(b)(6) motion
16 is not a responsive pleading and therefore plaintiff might have a right to amend.
17 *See Nolen v. Fitzharris*, 450 F.2d 958, 958-59 (9th Cir. 1971); *St. Michael’s*
18 *Convalescent Hospital v. California*, 643 F.2d 1369, 1374 (9th Cir. 1981). And
19 even where a party has amended his Complaint once or a responsive pleading has
20 been served, the Federal Rules provide that leave to amend should be “freely
21 given when justice so requires.” F.R.Civ.P. 15(a). The Ninth Circuit requires
22 that this policy favoring amendment be applied with “extreme liberality.”
23 *Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. Rose*, 893 F.2d 1074, 1079 (9th Cir. 1990).

24 These principles require that counsel for the plaintiff should carefully
25 evaluate the defendant’s contentions as to the deficiencies in the complaint and
26 that in many instances the moving party should agree to any amendment that
27 would cure a curable defect.

28 In the unlikely event that motions under Fed.R.Civ.P. 12 challenging

1 pleadings are filed after the Rule 26(f) Scheduling Conference, the moving party
2 shall attach a copy of the challenged pleading to the Memorandum of Points and
3 Authorities in support of the motion.

4 The foregoing provisions apply as well to motions to dismiss a
5 counterclaim, answer or affirmative defense, which a plaintiff might contemplate
6 bringing.

7 **J. WEBSITE**

8 Copies of this Order and other orders of this Court are available on the
9 Central District of California's website, at "www.cacd.uscourts.gov," under
10 "Judge's Requirements."

11
12 The Court thanks counsel and the parties for their anticipated cooperation.

13
14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15
16 Dated: _____

A. HOWARD MATZ
United States District Judge